

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of this application is requested. Claims 19-21 and 24 remain active in the application subsequent to entry of this Amendment.

In item 2 of the Official Action the examiner criticizes claims 19-24 for the inclusion of the term "a perforated core plate" which the examiner suggests may be new matter. A closer review of the specification will reveal that a perforated core plate falls within the description of the invention. Attention is directed to the description at page 21, line 4 (referring to Figure 1A of the drawings), the description referring to "a metal core plate (active material holder) 11 made of a punching metal applied with nickel plating on the surface thereof and having formed opening 11a to provide an active material-coated electrode having formed active material layers 12 and 13". The metal core plate is punched with holes thereby providing openings in it as shown in 11a of Figure 1A of the drawings. Applicants believe that the term "a perforated core plate" is consistent with the description of the invention including the drawings and therefore finds appropriate basis in the original description of the invention. Reconsideration is requested.

In item 3 of the Official Action the clarity of claims 20-24 is questioned. First, the examiner questions how in claim 20 the active material can be removed in step (d) after the step of applying solvent is completed. This procedure finds basis in the original description at page 18, lines 11-16. The solvent is applied to the active material layer side which causes the active material layer to soften so that it is easily removed. For purposes of clarity it is proposed to amend claim 20 to more closely correspond to the description found at page 18, lines 11-16.

Claims 22 and 23 are canceled to reduce issues.

With regard to claim 24, this relates to the description found at page 16, line 13 to page 17, line 2. That is, when an electrode on which the active material is coated is dried, the amount of binder contained in the active material around the core plate is reduced due

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to movement of the water contained in the active material. To avoid this problem, solvent is applied to the dried electrode. Perhaps a more apt term is "applying" and claim 24 is proposed to be amended accordingly.

Applicants submit that the above claim adjustments and amendments resolve the issues raised in the outstanding Official Action and place all claims in condition for allowance. If the examiner disagrees or prefers an alternative form of wording, please contact the undersigned by telephone to agree upon a mutually acceptable terminology.

Entry of this Amendment and favorable action are solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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